

# LEARNING FROM COVID-19, STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HEALTH IN MEDICAL EDUCATION: THE PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS

Annika Kreitlow, Sandra Steffens, Ellen Kuhlmann  
Medical School Hannover, Germany

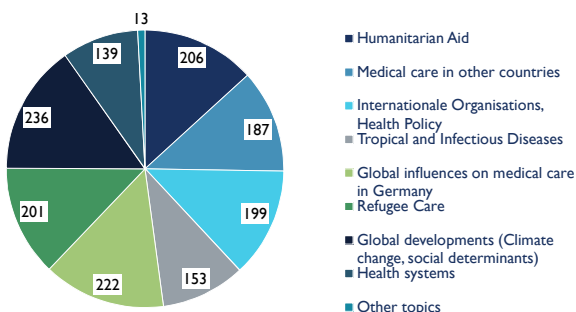
## Background

COVID-19 has demonstrated the local–global interconnectedness. This study aimed to strengthen global health in medical education and training, including three major objectives: to assess demand for global health education in the group of students and staff/teachers and the impact of COVID-19; to identify key areas of global health to be included in the curriculum; to explore demand for organisational support.

## Results Students

- Only 48,8% of the students surveyed said that global health topics have been part of their education.
- 62,14% said that COVID-19 had increased their interest in global health.
- 87,7% wished for stronger representation of global health in the curriculum.
- Interest in global health was highest in the group of preclinical students.

**Global health topics, demanded by students**  
(n=384; multiple options)



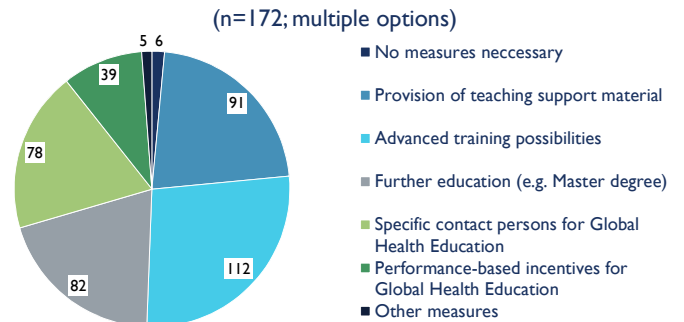
## Methods

Data collection: Online surveys, standardised items and open questions, in March and April 2020 at Hanover Medical School, Germany; questionnaire (in German) available at: <https://www.globalhealthhub.de/en/node/639>

Target groups: Undergraduate medical students (n=384) and teachers (n=172)

Analysis: Descriptive statistical analysis and content analysis

**Support for teaching global health demanded by teachers**  
(n=172; multiple options)



## Results Teachers

- 71,1% of the teachers surveyed said that COVID-19 'strongly'/'very strongly' increased the relevance of global health in their daily practice.
- 29,9% of teachers plan to integrate global health topics in future lectures.

## Conclusions

- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand for global health in all groups.
- Students are important drivers and a source of innovation towards strengthening global health in medical education.
- Organisations must support teachers in building competences in global health.